

Overstreet, Greg (ATG)

From: tayouner@juno.com
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2006 11:41 AM
To: Overstreet, Greg (ATG)
Subject: Public Record Comments

The following message was submitted to the Office of Attorney General:

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Comments:

I have taken a keen interest in the public disclosure process since reading about Armen Yousoufian's eight year struggle to get King County to release public records regarding the construction of a sports stadium. He invested about \$330,000 in legal costs and 4000 hours of his time, yet the court system only penalized the county about \$380,000 for all those years of arrogant behavior toward his request. And the assessed penalty will simply be paid by the taxpayers of King County, not by any of the county officials who stifled an citizen's honest request for public information. In light many public agencies' reluctance to release public documents, and to make any access they finally provide as difficult as possible, it is important to make the process function more in accordance with the intent of the law. In the proposed rules, I would specifically like to comment on WAC 44-14-050 Processing of public records requests. One sentence in that section states "The public records officer may provide electronic public records either in an electronic format or by reducing the electronic records to a paper format." This one sentence will allow an agency to take a useful document such as a spreadsheet that could be delivered on CD-ROM for a minimal charge, and turn it over to a citizen as an expensive stack of paper that makes any further research extremely difficult for that citizen. I urge you to remove this loophole from your proposed rules.

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